



PATENT  
Application Serial No. 10/608,362  
Attorney Ref. No. 023US1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: Patent Application of )  
Miles et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3732  
App. Ser. No. 10/608,362 )  
Filed: June 26, 2003 ) Examiner: Pedro Philogene  
For: SURGICAL ACCESS SYSTEM )  
AND RELATED METHODS )

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 20, 2006:

Signature: Jay Bell  
Printed Name: Jay Bell

**RESPONSIVE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 19, 2005, the shortened statutory for which expired on December 19, 2005, Applicants respectfully request the application be amended as follows: